

Free screenings of 'Yesterday' on World AIDS Day

'Yesterday', the first Oscar-nominated commercial film in isiZulu, will be screened free of charge at selected cinemas across the country on 1 December, World AIDS Day, when the North American premiere broadcast of the film by HBO Films, who are distributing it internationally, will also take place.

The work makes a strong statement against HIV/AIDS and the free screenings are designed to raise awareness of the disease and provide inspiration to those infected and affected, as the film illustrates that courage and determination can overcome insurmountable odds.

It follows the plight of a rural woman who falls ill and discovers that she is HIV positive. Her husband, a migrant mineworker, refuses to accept her condition and she is left to fend for herself and her young daughter, hoping that she will survive long enough to see her child go to school. This dilemma is not unusual in South Africa and the film brings to the fore the struggle of HIV positive people, especially rural women.

In a collaborative initiative with the Topsy Foundation, an NGO that partners rural communities in the fight against HIV/AIDS and poverty, the film will also be shown for free at the Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton at 8.00pm on 1 December and on DSTV's Mindset Educational Channel on the same day.

The film will be screened at the following venues: Gauteng (Clearwater, The Glen, Bedfordview, Metro Benoni, MonteCasino and Menlyn Park); KwaZulu-Natal (The Pavilion); Eastern Cape (Cinema Starz Boardwalk, Loch Logan and Walmer) and Western Cape (Cinema Starz Grandwest and Canal Walk).

Yesterday was released on DVD in October and has achieved unprecedented sales. Many corporates have purchased multiple copies for their staff for World AIDS Day.